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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Inventor: Masayuki HOSHINO et al. Group Art Unit: 2819

Appln. No.: 10/549,615 Examiner: L. V. Nguyen

Filed: September 20, 2005

For: CODING APPARATUS AND CODING METHOD

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.111

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 19, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance in light of the following remarks.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claims 5 and 6 are directed to allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-4 and 7 stand rejected, under 35 USC §102(e), as being anticipated by Sim et al. (US 2004/0208145). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as follows.

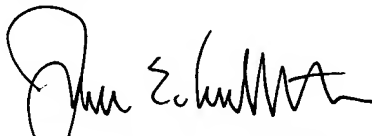
Sim's U.S. filing date does not antedate the Japanese priority date of the present application. So as to perfect their claim to priority, the Applicants enclose an English translation of the Japanese priority application, 2003-083500, with a

statement that the translation is accurate. Accordingly, Sim is disqualified as a section 102(e) reference against the claims of the present application.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Ledbetter  
Registration No. 28,732

Date: April 18, 2006  
JEL/DWW/att

Attorney Docket No. L9289.05173  
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